

REMARKS

In response to the Official Action of January 30, 2004, claim 20 has been amended in a manner which is believed to overcome the rejection of 35 USC §112, second paragraph. More particularly, the antecedent basis objection concerning "the face plate" has been overcome.

Claims 7 and 8 are amended to correct grammatical errors.

Claim 23 is amended to make it an independent claim incorporating the limitations of claim 1 from which it originally depended.

Referring now to pages 3-5 of the Official Action, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-4, 6-8, 10-12, 16 and 24 are not anticipated or suggested by WO 99/17330 (Cooper). Specifically with respect to claim 1, the Examiner states that Cooper teaches the claimed invention, referring to Figures 1 and 15 thereof, and passages at page 2, lines 1-8, page 3, lines 5-20, and page 5, lines 14-15. However, in Cooper, the disclosed cathode is a laminar structure which is supported on a frame. The frame is called a carrier (see Figure 14 and description at page 18, lines 5-6). In the present application, the cathode is also a laminar structure but it is carried on a back plate as specifically set forth in claim 1. The advantages of the present invention are specifically pointed out at page 2, lines 25-31. It is there stated that the arrangement of the back plate relative to the cathode plate has the advantage that atmospheric pressure does not act on the back of the cathode plate, but acts only on the back of the back plate and on the front of the anode to place the frame joints under compression. Furthermore, the back of the cathode plate is isolated from atmospheric pressure and the joint between the cathode plate and the back plate is not subject to tension due to the interior of the display being evacuated. Thus, the arrangement of the visual display as specifically characterized in claim 1 gives rise to advantages that are not present in the '330 reference.

As set forth in the Official Action at page 3, the Examiner is of the opinion that the back layer of the cathode laminate is the back plate. However, this layer does not exist as a separate

plate, and it would be incorrect to equate the back layer of the cathode laminate to a separate plate. In the present invention as disclosed and claimed in claim 1 and the dependent claims thereto, as well as independent claim 23, and as clearly seen in Figure 2, the back plate 112 is separate from the cathode plate 101, and it is clearly seen that the front layer 121 of the back plate 112 carries the cathode plate 101. As seen in Figure 14 of the '330 Cooper reference, the emissive device 100 is soldered to the frame (carrier 40) (see text at page 18, line 17). It is therefore respectfully submitted that the Examiner's statement that the '330 Cooper reference discloses a back plate in which the cathode plate is carried on the front side of the back plate is incorrect.

Since independent claim 1 is neither disclosed nor suggested by the disclosure in the '330 Cooper reference, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims thereto, including claims 2-4, 6-8, 10-12, 16 and 24, are also neither disclosed nor suggested by the '330 Cooper reference. Similarly, dependent claims 5, 9, 13-15, 18, 19 and 25, which were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Cooper, alone or in combination with US Patent No. 5,766,053 (Cathey et al.) (for claims 20-22), are also believed to be distinguished over the cited art since these claims all ultimately depend from claim 1, which is believed to be distinguished over the '330 Cooper reference for the reasons set forth above.

Referring now to page 10 of the Official Action, claim 23 is stated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 23 as presented herewith is in independent form containing the limitations of dependent claim 1 and as such is believed to be allowable.

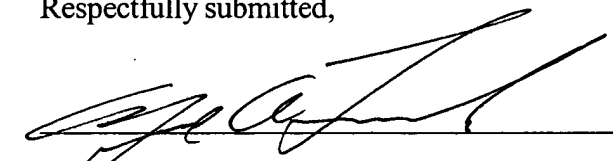
Finally, the prior art made of record but not relied upon is also not believed to disclose or suggest the present invention. US Patent No. 6,577,057 (Yamamoto et al.) is directed to a field emissive display having an anode plate 10 and a cathode plate 20. There is no disclosure nor suggestion concerning the visual display having a back plate wherein the cathode plate is carried on the front side of the back plate and a frame connecting the back plate to the anode plate. As such, this reference is not believed to disclose or suggest any of the presently pending claims.

US Patent No. 5,614,781 (Spindt et al.) is directed to a structure and operation of high voltage supports and specifically to a flat-panel device which includes a spacer for providing internal support. The flat-panel display is stated as being able to include a thermionic cathode or a field emitter cathode and a face plate and back plate which can both be straight or both be curved. The specific structure of the present invention, including a back plate and a cathode plate being carried on the front side of the back plate, is neither disclosed nor suggested by Spindt et al.

CONCLUSION

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the present application as amended is in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact applicant's attorney at the number below if there are any questions.

Respectfully submitted,



Alfred A. Fressola  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 27,550

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WARE, FRESSOLA, VAN DER SLUYS  
& ADOLPHSON LLP  
Bradford Green, Building Five  
755 Main Street, P.O. Box 224  
Monroe, CT 06468  
Telephone: (203) 261-1234  
Facsimile: (203) 261-5676  
USPTO Customer No. 004955